

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of preventing or reducing immune coagulation caused by a virus comprising administering an effective amount of an inhibitor of a nucleocapsid gene (N-gene) or protein (N-protein) to an animal in need thereof.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the virus is a hepatitis virus.
3. A method according to claim 2 wherein the hepatitis virus is capable of inducing fgl-2.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the inhibitor of the N-protein is an antibody that binds to the N-protein or domain I of the N-protein.
5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the inhibitor of the N-gene is an antisense oligonucleotide that is complimentary to a nucleic acid sequence from the N-gene.
6. A method of inducing immune coagulation comprising administering an effective amount of a N-protein, domain I of the N-protein, or gene to an animal in need thereof.
7. A composition for use in inhibiting procoagulant activity in an animal comprising (a) an antibody specific for a N-protein or domain I of the N-protein; (b) or antisense nucleic acid molecules complimentary to the N-protein gene.

8. A composition for use in inducing procoagulant activity in an animal comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding N-protein or domain I of N-protein; or an N-protein or domain 1 of N-protein in admixture with a suitable diluent or carrier.

5 9. A vaccine against a virus causing immune coagulation comprising an amount of an N-protein or peptide which is effective to induce an immune response against N-protein.

10 10. A vaccine for treating or preventing viral hepatitis comprising an effective amount of an N-protein or peptide in admixture with a suitable diluent or carrier.

11. A method of preventing or reducing immune coagulation caused by a virus comprising administering an effective amount of an inhibitor of LF-A1 gene or protein to an animal in need thereof.

15 12. A method according to claim 11 wherein the virus is a hepatitis virus.

13. A method according to claim 11 wherein the inhibitor of the LF-A1 protein is an antibody that binds to the LF-A1 protein.

20 14. A method according to claim 1 wherein the inhibitor of LF-A1 protein is an antisense oligonucleotide that is complimentary to the LF-A1 binding element of the promoter region of the fgl-2 gene.

15. A method according to claim 11 wherein the inhibitor of the LF-A1 gene is an antisense oligonucleotide that is complimentary to a nucleic acid sequence from the LF-A1 gene.

16. A method of inducing immune coagulation comprising administering an effective amount of a LF-A1 protein or gene to an animal in need thereof.

17. A composition for use in inhibiting procoagulant activity in an
5 animal comprising (a) an antibody specific for a LF-A1 protein; (b) or antisense nucleic acid molecules complementary to the LF-A1 protein gene; or (c) antisense nucleic acid molecules complementary to the LF-A1 binding element of the promoter region of the fgl-2 gene.

18. A composition for use in inducing procoagulant activity in an
10 animal comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding LF-A1 protein or an LF-A1 protein in admixture with a suitable diluent or carrier.

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